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What is claimed is

1. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp having heater elements contained within an envelope in response to electrical power from a source comprising:
  - means for receiving power from the source,
  - an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing the lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within the lamp envelope,
  - a circuit board mounting said oscillator within a volume having a cross-section configured substantially the same as the cross-section of the lamp envelope, and
  - means attaching said board for forming an end of the lamp envelope with said oscillator output signal connected to the lamp heater elements.
2. A module in accordance with claim 1 wherein said circuit board is attached externally to an end of the lamp envelope, said module including a sleeve retaining said board therewithin.
3. A module in accordance with claim 1 wherein the power source produces standard A.C. power, said module further including means mounted on said circuit board for converting said received power for actuating said oscillator.
4. A module in accordance with claim 1 wherein the power source produces D.C. power, said module further including means for actuating said oscillator from said received power from the D.C. source.

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5. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp having heater elements contained within an envelope in response to electrical power from a source comprising:

means for receiving power from said source,

an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing said lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp envelope,

a circuit board mounting said oscillator within a volume having a cross-section which is substantially the same as a cross-section of said lamp envelope, and

means for attaching said circuit board so that said oscillator output signal is connected to said lamp heater elements.

6. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp having heater elements contained within an envelope in response to electrical power from a source comprising:

means for receiving power from said source,

an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing said lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp envelope,

a circuit board having said oscillator mounted thereon, and

means attaching said circuit board for forming an end of said lamp envelope with said oscillator output signal connected to said lamp heater elements.

29. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp having an envelope in response to electrical power from a source, said module comprising:

means for receiving power from the source;

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an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing the lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp; and

a circuit board having said oscillator mounted thereon, wherein said circuit board mounts said oscillator within a volume having a cross-section which is substantially the same as a cross-section of said lamp envelope.

30. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp having an envelope in response to electrical power from a source, said module comprising:

means for receiving power from the source;

an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing the lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp; and

a circuit board having said oscillator mounted thereon, wherein said circuit board is contained in a housing attached to said lamp, wherein said housing has a cross-section which is substantially the same as a cross-section of said lamp envelope.

31. A module in accordance with claim 30, wherein said envelope contains heater elements.

32. A module in accordance with claim 31, wherein said oscillator output signal is coupled to said heater elements.

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33. A module in accordance with claim 32, said module further comprising means for attaching said oscillator to said heater elements.

34. A module in accordance with claim 33, wherein said attaching means comprises:

an output transformer having an array of pins and a plurality of leads connecting to said heater elements; and

a receptacle mounted on said circuit board for receiving said array of pins of said output transformer.

35. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp in response to electrical power from a source, said module comprising:

means for receiving power from the source;

an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing the lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp, wherein said lamp comprises an envelope; and

a circuit board having said oscillator mounted thereon, wherein said circuit board is integrally attached to said lamp and said circuit board mounts said oscillator within a volume having a cross-section which is substantially the same as a cross-section of said lamp envelope.

36. A module in accordance with claim 35, wherein said circuit board is attached externally to said lamp.

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37. A module in accordance with claim 35, wherein said circuit board is attached internally to said lamp.

38. A module in accordance with claim 35, wherein said envelope contains heater elements.

39. A module in accordance with claim 38, wherein said oscillator output signal is coupled to said heater elements.

40. A module in accordance with claim 39, said module further comprising means for attaching said oscillator to said heater elements.

41. A module in accordance with claim 40, wherein said attaching means comprises:

an output transformer having an array of pins and a plurality of leads connecting to said heater elements; and

a receptacle mounted on said circuit board for receiving said array of pins of said output transformer.

42. A module in accordance with claim 35, wherein the power source produces standard A.C. power, said module further including means mounted on said circuit board for converting said received power for actuating said oscillator.

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43. A module in accordance with claim 35, wherein the power source produces D.C. power, said module further including means for actuating said oscillator from said received power from the D.C. source.

44. A module for driving a gas discharge lamp in response to electrical power from a source, said module comprising:

means for receiving power from the source;

an oscillator coupled to said receiving means for transforming said received power to an output signal at a frequency and voltage for causing the lamp to produce visible light through gas discharge within said lamp, wherein said lamp comprises an envelope; and

a circuit board having said oscillator mounted thereon, wherein said circuit board is contained in a housing, said housing integrally attached to said lamp, and said housing has a cross-section which is substantially the same as a cross-section of said lamp envelope.

45. A module in accordance with claim 44, wherein said housing containing said circuit board is attached externally to said lamp.

46. A module in accordance with claim 44, wherein said housing containing said circuit board is attached internally to said lamp.

47. A module in accordance with claim 44, wherein said envelope contains heater elements.

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48. A module in accordance with claim 47, wherein said oscillator output signal is coupled to said heater elements.

49. A module in accordance with claim 48, said module further comprising means for attaching said oscillator to said heater elements.

50. A module in accordance with claim 49, wherein said attaching means comprises:

an output transformer having an array of pins and a plurality of leads connecting to said heater elements; and

a receptacle mounted on said circuit board for receiving said array of pins of said output transformer.

51. A module in accordance with claim 44, wherein the power source produces standard A.C. power, said module further including means mounted on said circuit board for converting said received power for actuating said oscillator.

52. A module in accordance with claim 44, wherein the power source produces D.C. power, said module further including means for actuating said oscillator from said received power from the D.C. source.